

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

ACDE-00 /026 W

----- 089536

P R 061700Z FEB 76

FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2932

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 0013

EXDIS/SALT

DEPT ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 6, 1976
(SALT TWO - 898)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY DEPUTY MINISTER
SEMENOV AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF FEBRUARY 6, 1976
QUOTE

SEMENOV STATEMENT, FEBRUARY 6, 1976

I

AT THE FEBRUARY 3, 1976 MEETING, IN THE INTERESTS OF MAKING
FURTHER PROGRESS IN WORKING OUT SPECIFIC PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT
AGREEMENT ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS,
THE USSR DELEGATION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS, TABLED
NEW WORDING CONCERNING THE MUTUAL OBLIGATION OF LIMITING
INCREASES IN THE ORIGINAL VOLUME OF ICBM SILO LAUNCHERS
IN THE PROCESS OF MODERNIZATION AND REPLACEMENT. A PROPOSAL

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WAS ALSO TABLED CONCERNING A COMMON UNDERSTANDING OF THE

WORD "ORIGINAL" IN ARTICLE IV, PAR. 4.

ASSUMING THAT AGREEMENT WILL BE REACHED ON THE QUESTION OF NOT INCREASING THE ORIGINAL VOLUME OF ICBM SILO LAUNCHERS BY MORE THAN 32 PERCENT, THE USSR DELEGATION, IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE AGREEMENT ON TWO QUESTIONS SIMULTANEOUSLY, HAS INSTRUCTIONS TO PROPOSE THAT WORDING BE AGREED UPON FOR INCLUSION IN THE TEXT OF THE DRAFT BEING WORKED OUT, PROVIDING THAT THE DELIMITATION OF LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS BE MADE BOTH BY THE LAUNCHING WEIGHT AND BY THE THROW-WEIGHT OF MISSILES.

IN THIS CONNECTION, THE USSR DELEGATION HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO TABLE THE FOLLOWING WORDING FOR THE DEFINITION OF HEAVY ICBMS:

"HEAVY ICBMS ARE ANY ICBMS HAVING A LAUNCHING WEIGHT OR A THROW-WEIGHT GREATER THAN THAT OF THE LARGEST LIGHT ICBM DEPLOYED BY EITHER PARTY ON THE DATE OF SIGNATURE OF THIS AGREEMENT."

TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THAT IN ARTICLE II OF THE INTERIM AGREEMENT, WHICH ACCORDING TO THE AIDE-MEMOIRE IS TO BE INCLUDED IN THE NEW AGREEMENT, IT IS LAUNCHERS PRECISELY OF LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS THAT

ARE DELIMITED, THE SOVIET SIDE PROCEEDS FROM THE PREMISE THAT THESE PROVISIONS MUST ALSO BE RETAINED IN THE HEAVY ICBM DEFINITION BEING WORKED OUT FOR PURPOSES OF THE NEW AGREEMENT. WHILE RETAINING THE CONCEPTS ADOPTED BY THE SIDES, THE PROPOSED WORDING OF THE DEFINITION DRAWS A QUITE DEFINITE AND PRECISE DISTINCTION BETWEEN LIGHT AND HEAVY ICBMS, WHICH ENSURES THE NECESSARY VERIFICATION BY NATIONAL TECHNICAL MEANS. SUBSTITUTING THE WORD "NON-HEAVY" FOR THE CONCEPT OF "LIGHT" ICBMS WOULD DEPRIVE THE DEFINITION BEING WORKED OUT OF THE NECESSARY CLARITY AND CERTAINTY.

IT IS THESE CONSIDERATIONS THAT ARE REFLECTED IN THE DEFINITION OF HEAVY ICBMS PROPOSED TODAY.

II

MR. AMBASSADOR,

DURING THE RECESS THE RESULTS OF THE DELEGATIONS' WORK ON DRAFTING THE PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT DRAFT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT WERE GIVEN THOROUGH CONSIDERATION IN MOSCOW. CERTAIN PROGRESS IN THAT WORK WAS NOTED.

THE USSR DELEGATION STATES THAT, TAKING INTO ACCOUNT THE RECENT NEGOTIATIONS IN MOSCOW BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S.,
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IT HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO WORK ON THE PREPARATION OF THE DRAFT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE USSR AND THE U.S. ON THE LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS FOR THE PERIOD UNTIL THE END OF 1985 ON THE BASIS OF THE AGREED PROVISIONS OF THE JOINT WORKING DOCUMENT OF DECEMBER 18, 1975.

WE BELIEVE THAT MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING ON THE QUESTIONS DISCUSSED, AS REFLECTED IN THE JOINT DOCUMENT, IS THE POINT OF DEPARTURE FOR FURTHER WORK ON REACHING AGREEMENT UPON THE

PROVISIONS OF THE DRAFT. OF COURSE, IN THE PROCESS OF REACHING
AGREEMENT ON THOSE FORMUATIONS WHICH ARE STILL BRACKETED
IN FULL OR IN PART, APPROPRIATE CHANGES OR CLARIFICATIONS
MAY BE INTRODUCED INTO AGREED FORMULATIONS. EDITORIAL CHANGES
MAY SUBSEQUENTLY ALSO BE MADE WHEN CONFORMING THE RUSSIAN
AND ENGLISH TEXTS.
UNQUOTE.JOHNSON

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, SALT (ARMS CONTROL), SPEECHES, NEGOTIATIONS, ICBM
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 FEB 1976
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SALTT00013
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760046-0355
From: SALT TALKS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760274/aaaacmty.tel
Line Count: 122
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <06 MAY 2004 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <01 SEP 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPUTY MINISTER SEMENOV'S STATEMENT OF FEBRUARY 6, 1976 (SALT TWO - 898)
TAGS: PARM, (SEMENOV)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006